Memo on FBI-Commission relationship for suit 10/12/69

It is clear and well-known that the FBI acted as an arm, part of the Commission, in performing investigative, analytical and certain laboratory functions. That is not well known is that it acted in other capacities. The attached staff memo from J.Lee Rankin, dated March 12, 1964, from File CAI-FBI, illustrates one of the added functions of the FBI as part of the Commission.

I especially call your attention to the paragraph marked #3". This begin, "The originals of all Commission exhibits are to be in the custody of the FBI". The FBI was them to provide photographs for the Commission's use.

I also call to your attention the fact that this must mean all evidence rather than only officially-entered exhibits, as the rest of this paragraph makes clear.

Further, this paragraph orders that after the staff prepared exhibits, they were to be given the FBI.

In this context, it is possible to argue that when the Commission later asked Frazier if the spectrographic analysis was a permanent part of the FBI files, it also understood this to mean of the Commission's own work. In any event, that analysis is considered by the Commission in Frazier's testimony and is basic to all Commission conclusions about Bullet 399.

If you want to carry this line of thinking/proof further, I have somewhere Commission filesnx of the period following the Report showing the FBI still had the evidence and Hoover's desire to get rid of what he wanted not to have.

I am sending copies of this to Hoch and Schoener for any comment they might care to make and any relevant references to similar proofs or materials. I anticipate one FBI/DJ answer will be privelege as an investigative file/ It surrendered any such privelege in its Commission function and in the Commission's use in Frazier testimony and as the basis of the Report.